

Washington, D.C. 20505

4 November 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: C/LA, DDO

FROM: DCI

Attached for your information.

William J. Casey

Attachment:  
Military Situation in El Salvador



SECRET

25X1

Military Situation in El Salvador

Although it is true that the Salvadoran guerrillas have largely held the tactical initiative since early September, the situation for the Army is not as bleak as that portrayed in the 4 November article in The New York Times.

- Army casualties have been high, but not as high as the over 1,000 KIA claimed by the insurgents.
- Government forces continue to conduct major offensive operations, most recently last week northeast of the capital.

The Army continues to suffer from problems that have persistently plagued it for the past several years, however, including inadequate logistical support and an inability to counter guerrilla ambush techniques.

- The military also is experiencing command and control problems, and has suffered from ineffective leadership.
- Defense Minister Vides is aware of the situation and plans to institute widespread changes in the High Command by the end of the year. We anticipate he will name a new Chief of Staff and will relieve or rotate several brigade and departmental commanders.

SECRET